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29 November 1979

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 109



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CONTENTS

PAGE

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

	PAGE
Japanese Official 'Regrets' U.S. Action on Fishing Accord (KYODO, 6 Oct 79).....	1
Crab Catch at Stake U.S. Decision Review Asked	
Sweden Reduces Territorial Waters Limit (Stockholm Domestic Service, 10 Oct 79).....	3
PDPR Holds Fishery Talks With Soviet Party Delegation (Aden Domestic Service, 18 Oct 79).....	4
Discuss Development Soviet Fisheries Delegation	
USSR, Australia To Cooperate in Fishing Study (AFP, 26 Oct 79).....	5
Japan Allowed To Fish Within Australian Waters (KYODO, 1 Nov 79).....	6
Australia Reported To Reject Soviet Fishing Rights Bid (THE AUSTRALIAN, 26 Sep 79).....	7
Soviets Negotiate for Cook Islands Fishing Rights (Stuart McMillan; THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN, 22-23 Sep 79)	8

CONTENTS (Continued)	Page
----------------------	------

Briefs

Japan-USSR Whaling Agreement	10
Soviet Skipper Arrested	10
PDRY, Cuban Fishery Talks	10
'NOVOYE VREMYA' on LOS Conference	10

ASIA

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

Japan, ROK Plan To Develop East China Sea Shelf (THE AGE, 26 Sep 79).....	12
--	----

South Korea, Japan Talks on Continental Shelf Reported (Various sources, various dates).....	13
---	----

Meeting in Seoul Agreement on Shelf Development	
--	--

Australian Firm Plans Oil Exploration Off PRC Coast (THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, 11 Sep 79).....	14
--	----

S. Korea-Japan Seismic Survey To Begin 30 October (HAPTONG, 30 Oct 79).....	15
--	----

Japanese Fishing Boats Told To Avoid Taiwan Waters (KYODO, 9 Oct 79).....	16
--	----

Vietnamese Free 70 Thai Fishermen, 1 of 3 Boats (BANGKOK POST, 2 Nov 79).....	17
--	----

'SRV Gunboats' Seize Three Thai Trawlers (BANGKOK WORLD, 1 Nov 79)	18
---	----

Briefs

Indonesia, Australia on Continental Shelves	19
Australia-Taiwan Fishing Pact	19

AUSTRALIA

Navy Captain Dismissed for Offenses Against Foreign Fishermen (THE WEST AUSTRALIAN, 27 Sep 79).....	20
--	----

Press Reports Details of Expanded Fishing Zone (Various sources, 26, 27 Sep 79).....	21
---	----

Minister's Report to Parliament Further Details Given Key Objectives Stressed, Editorial	
--	--

	Page
CONTENTS (Continued)	
Briefs	
200-Mile Nautical Zone	24
Fish Survey	24
JAPAN	
Oil, Natural Gas Discovered in Waters Off Sakhalin (KYODO, 30 Oct 79).....	25
TAIWAN	
Concern Over Manila-Peking Maritime Zone Talks (BUSINESS TIMES, 24 Sep 79).....	26
VIETNAM	
Briefs	
Fishery in Coastal Provinces	27
LATIN AMERICA	
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS	
U.S. Charged With Taking Tuna in Costa Rican Waters (San Jose Radio Reloj, 15 Oct 79).....	28
MEXICO	
Campeche Sound Oil Wells the World's Biggest Producers (AFP, 31 Oct 79).....	29
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	
GABON	
Adoption of 200-Mile Zone Strongly Advocated (Mualabu Mussamba; L'UNION, 11, 12, 13 Sep 79).....	30
NAMIBIA	
Extension of Fishing Zone To Be Proclaimed (Rianne Fourie; THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, 5 Nov 79)....	33
Fishing Zone Extension Received Favorably (THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER, 6 Nov 79).....	35
Delegation to Fisheries Conference Hopes for Fishing Industry, by Rianne Fourie Will Develop Walvis Bay	

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

USSR

Briefs

Reappearance of Pacific Sardines

39

WEST EUROPE

GREECE

Briefs

New Oilfield Under Original Aegean Field

40

SWEDEN

Sweden Pulls Back Territorial Limit to 9 Miles in South

(Lars Hellberg; AFTENPOSTEN, 11 Oct 79).....

41

New Territorial Limits May Cost Sweden Right to Oil Resources

(SVENSKA DAGBLADET, 14 Oct 79).....

43

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

JAPANESE OFFICIAL 'REGRETS' U.S. ACTION ON FISHING ACCORD

Crab Catch at Stake

OW060855 Tokyo KYODO in English 0336 GMT 6 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 6 KYODO--A Japanese fishery official expressed regret Saturday over the reported agreement by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to phase out Japanese interests in smaller-tanner crab fishing in the Bering Sea. The official, who wanted to be unnamed, told KYODO News Service Japanese fishersts feared the council, at its meeting Thursday and Friday in Sitka, Alaska, might have reached such a decision. He said the Japanese Government would make every effort to continue to win smaller-tanner crab catch quotas in the Bering Sea.

The official was commenting on a press report quoting Clem Tillion, chairman of the council, as saying the amount of crab the Japanese can take in 1980 should be cut back by 50 percent. He also said this means 1981 should be their last year to fish for crab within U.S. waters. No official report has come as yet from Hiroya Sano, director of the Fisheries Agency's Oceanic Fishery Department, now visiting the U.S., he said.

The Japanese fishery official said Japan's smaller-tanner crab catch quota in the Bering Sea for the 1979 season was 15,000 tons, the same as for 1978 and up somewhat from 12,500 tons for 1977. The official said Alaskan fishermen used to take chiefly large tanner crabs (bairoi) inside the U.S. 200 mile Bering Sea waters. Recently, however, they have begun catching smaller tanner crabs (opilio). The Japanese have been allowed to fish only for smaller tanner crabs there.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is one of the eight such regional councils in the U.S.

The council is a joint government-industry planning body, made up of representatives of the state and federal governments, fishery industry and the public.

U.S. Decision Review Asked

OW061255 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 6 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 6 KYODO--Japanese Government officials, now in the United States for fishery talks, will ask the U.S. Commerce Department for a review of the decision to keep Japanese smaller-tanner crab fishermen out of the Bering Sea from 1982, a

Fishery Agency official said here Saturday. The official said, however, that the Commerce Department could not substantially change the decision made Thursday by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council which he said has a big say in working out fishery quotas. The decision also demands that the Japanese cut their smaller-tanner crab quota to 7,500 tons in 1980 from 15,000 tons for this year.

The official said the council made this decision knowing that the crab is very popular in Japan and a good export item. U.S. fishermen are going all out for the crab, according to the official. He said the total crab supply from the area to Japan will remain unchanged despite the decision but it will force some 2,000 Japanese fishermen of 26 boats out of jobs.

CSO: 5200

SWEDEN REDUCES TERRITORIAL WATERS LIMIT

LD101845 Stockholm Domestic Service in Swedish 1700 GMT 10 Oct 79 LD

[Excerpt:] Sweden is to draw in its territorial waters limit in Kattegat and the Baltic around Bornholm from 12 nautical miles to 9. This is taking place only a few months after the limit was extended from 4 to 12 nautical miles. Since Sweden extended its limit there have been many violations of Swedish air space, chiefly by West German aircraft. Here is a report by (Staffan Ewendahl):

The Swedish decision to move in the territorial water limit to 9 nautical miles along certain coasts was taken in June, following talks with Denmark. The result of these talks was that Sweden would leave free passage of 3 nautical miles between the two coasts and that the Danes would do the same. If Sweden and Denmark had not agreed on this, both countries would still have been forced to leave free passage in the sound for both submarines and aircraft without any advance notice, this is according to a protocol of the UN Law of the Sea Conference. When the Swedish government decided to extend the limit to 12 nautical miles from 1 July, the intention was to move back the limit to 9 nautical miles in the new year in Kattegat and in the Baltic Sea around Bornholm. This would follow the principle that it is better to have a smaller area under full control than to have a big area with limited control.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

PDRY HOLDS FISHERY TALKS WITH SOVIET PARTY DELEGATION

Discuss Development

LSC:626 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Oct 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, today received the Soviet party delegation led by Comrade Makarov, member of the CPSU Central Committee and of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Secretariat and party officials of Bashkirskaya ASSR. Discussions at the meeting centered on the relations between the two friendly countries and ways to develop them. The two sides stressed their determination to increase cooperation in the exploitation of fish resources in the interests of the two friendly countries.

Brother Anis Hasan Yahya also received the comrade Soviet ambassador in Aden, with whom he discussed ways to strengthen and consolidate cooperation between the two countries in the exploitation of fish resources.

Soviet Fisheries Delegation

LSC:626 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 79 LD/EA

[Text] Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, this morning met Comrade Nikolay Kudryavtsev, Soviet deputy minister of the fish industry and leader of the Soviet fisheries delegation. Days of strengthening and consolidating cooperation between the two countries in the field of fisheries were discussed at the meeting, which was also attended by brother (Abd al-Wahhab) Zuhub, deputy minister of [words indistinct], several officials of the Ministry of Fish Resources and members of the Soviet [words indistinct] delegation.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

USSR, AUSTRALIA TO COOPERATE IN FISHING STUDY

OW260651 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GNT 26 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Canberra, Oct 26 (AFP) -- Three Soviet Union fishing trawlers are conducting a feasibility fishing operation off the northern coast of Western Australia with the joint approval of the Federal Australian Government and the West Australian Government. It is the first time an Australian company Craig Mostyn and Company Ltd. will operate in partnership with a joint Soviet-Singapore company Marviseco Pty Ltd.

The three Soviet trawlers will work in deep water north of Broome, Australia, in the Ampler Harbor Island area to assess the extent and distribution of sponge (a type of sea cucumber) called scallop Bay prawns and pelagic fish. The study will determine the commercial possibility of exporting the fish.

An interesting precedent is that Australian fishermen will be trained on board and part of the catch will be processed ashore.

One of the organisations working with the Soviet Australian fishing study is a Singaporean based company owned jointly by the Straits Fisheries Pty Ltd and Singapore M of the Soviet Union. The familiar organisation will provide the trawlers and the technique.

Accommodation will be provided on board for Australian observers as well as fishermen and all fish products will be offered for sale to Australian commercial interests at current market prices. The fish which are not bought by Australian companies will be exported marked "product of Australia" and at least one of the Soviet trawlers must meet Australian exports of fish regulations standards.

The Australian authorities are delighted by this arrangement because all the Soviet fishermen will be experienced experts eager to open up a new fishing era between the Soviet, Australia and Singapore. However there is no commitment by any party to continue beyond the feasibility studies which will begin at once.

CSO: 5200

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

JAPAN ALLOWED TO FISH WITHIN AUSTRALIAN WATERS

OW0106397 Tokyo KYODO in English 0627 GMT 1 Nov 79 OW

[Text] Sydney Nov 1 KYODO--Australia Thursday officially established its 200-mile nautical zone. The operations of Japanese fishing vessels within the zone, chiefly floating long-line fishing for tuna and marlin, are guaranteed by a fisheries agreement already signed between the two countries.

Up to the present time about 300 vessels have applied for fishing licences under the agreement. A provisional arrangement between the two governments permits operations by vessels whose applications are pending, so there is no problem for Japanese tuna boats in the southern part of the zone, where the season has already begun. The agreement also permits hand-line tuna and marlin boats to operate in the special Coral Sea zone.

There is also a demand for single line skipjack fishing within the zone. However, as there is still a wide gap between Australian and Japanese positions on the question of how many vessels to admit and how to evaluate the catch, the Fishery Agency has advised Japanese boats using this method to operate outside the zone.

CSO: 5200

AUSTRALIA REPORTED TO REJECT SOVIET FISHING RIGHTS BID

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 2

[Text]

THE Soviet Union has protested to the Federal Government over what it sees as a rejection of its bid for fishing rights in Australian waters.

Soviet officials said yesterday negotiations had been bogged down by Australia even after the USSR had pledged to meet the same conditions as the Japanese Government.

The Japanese will pay a \$1.4 million access fee for the right to catch tuna by long line methods for the first year, and will continue to provide technical assistance to the Australian fishing industry.

The Japanese have also agreed to better trade access for Australian fish products on the Japanese market.

By GARY O'NEIL

The Russians said they had also been prepared to offer better trade deals.

But now the future of all agricultural trade between the two countries could be vitally affected by the decision over fishing rights.

A phrase in the speech by the Minister for Primary Industry, Mr Sinclair, announcing the new Australian 200 nautical mile fishing zone which comes into effect on November 1 has aggravated the situation and upset the Russians.

Mr Sinclair said negotiations with the Republic of Korea would be resumed shortly and talks were also being held with commercial interests in Taiwan.

"But no timetable has yet been set for negotiations with other countries," he said.

Yesterday, Russian officials interpreted that as a refusal by the Australian Government to negotiate with the USSR.

The Russians say they are entitled to the same opportunity as Japan to negotiate fishing rights in Australian waters.

Mr Sinclair said yesterday the Government would determine total allowable catches, with the first preference going to Australian interests and any surplus being allocated among foreigners.

"Foreigners will not be allowed access to fisheries fully exploited by Australians or likely to be in the near future," he said.

CSO: 5200

SOVIETS NEGOTIATE FOR COOK ISLANDS FISHING RIGHTS

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 22-23 Sep 79 p 9

[Report from Stuart McMillan in Christchurch]

[Text]

THE Cook Islands have been negotiating with the Soviet Union over fishing rights.

Some hints have been dropped that Soviet fishermen might get exclusive rights to a huge area of sea and on-shore facilities.

The problem could be highly embarrassing for the New Zealand Government which, under the Cook Islands' Constitution, retains responsibility for the foreign relations of the islands.

But the new Premier of the Cook Islands, Dr Tom Davis, seems intent on running his own foreign policy. This produces a dilemma for New Zealand which has the responsibility, but does not make the decisions.

Neither New Zealand nor Australia wants a Soviet presence in the islands in any substantial way. The trouble is that it is very difficult for them to do anything about it, should that happen.

The Cook Islands consists of 15 islands, 13 of them inhabited by 18,000 people. (More Cook islanders live in New Zealand than on the islands.) The islands are scattered over 1,360,000 sq km of ocean.

Under the Constitution of 1965, the Cook Islands, formerly administered by New Zealand, became self-governing in a free association with New Zealand.

Under its terms, Cook Islanders are free to migrate to New Zealand and the New Zealand Government continues to support the economy.

At present, this support runs to about \$6 million a year, half of it being spent as a direct subsidy for the Cook Islands Budget.

The former Premier, Sir Albert Henry, was unseated when a court disallowed the votes cast by Cook islanders flown from New Zealand under financial arrangements made by Sir Albert.

As Premier, Sir Albert took something of a leading role in the South Pacific Forum and other regional groupings. His successor, Dr Davis, appears to be stretching the association with New Zealand to its limits.

The Cook Islands will declare an exclusive economic zone on October 1. It will then have many hundreds of thousands of square kilometres of ocean to manage.

It has no way of carrying out surveillance of such a vast area, but it is undeterred by that.

The negotiations with the Soviet Union are being conducted by an Auckland lawyer, Paul Temm, who does not seem anxious to stay in touch with the New Zealand Government, which is unlikely to see much virtue in the fact that, if the talks on foreign policy with Wellington have ceased, at least the foreign policy is being run from Auckland.

The Cook Islands appeared to get the idea of negotiating with the Soviet Union from New Zealand's example. New Zealand has granted access to Japanese, Soviet and Korean fishermen.

The Cook Islands invited the three countries to make offers on fishing. The Japanese turned down the suggestion down, but Korea and the Soviet Union showed interest.

The Soviet Union has said it has been fishing in the area for 15 years and is making information about fish species available to the Cook Islands Government. Considerable scepticism is expressed by some observers about the Soviet Union fishing there regularly for 15 years.

If the New Zealand Government has cause to eye the negotiations with some misgivings, various other island nations will eye them with not a little interest.

It appears likely there will not be a unified regional approach to fishing in the south Pacific. Various island countries will make bilateral deals with whom they can.

If the Cook Islands appear to get a very attractive deal from the Soviet Union, other south Pacific countries may well issue invitations to the Soviet Union to inspect their waters.

They are also likely to watch carefully the New Zealand response to the Cook Islands. Will New Zealand allow the Cooks Islands to permit a substantial Soviet presence?

Both New Zealand and Australia have discouraged various south Pacific islands from allowing a permanent Soviet or Chinese presence.

The response will be awaited by none more so than the king of Tonga, who in 1976 appeared likely to get an airport out of the Soviet Union, but he was dissuaded.

He is reported to have been a bit short after New Zealand allowed Soviet fishermen into its 200-mile zone. The New Zealand and Australian fear is that a substantial Soviet presence in some of the poor Pacific States could be too much for those States.

They fear that even a modest shore facility could link the whole economy of the islands into serving the needs of the Soviet fishermen, and that the interests of New Zealand and Australia would not be served by such an arrangement.

Not the least interesting aspect of the whole affair is that the U.S. has an historical claim to the northern Cooks, probably dating from about half-way through last century.

WORLDWIDE AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

JAPAN-USSR WHALING AGREEMENT--Tokyo, 9 Oct (KYODO)--Japan and the Soviet Union have failed to reach agreement on Antarctic whaling for the 1979-1980 season, the Fisheries Agency said Tuesday. Japanese and Soviet negotiators held talks in Moscow October 1-6 to follow up the 31st meeting of the International Whaling Commission in London last July. Japan rejected a Soviet proposal that it swap some of its catch quota of sperm whales in the North Pacific for Minke whales in the Antarctic Ocean. Russia has no claim to the 1,350 sperm whale quota for the North Pacific because it was set only for whaling operations from coastal stations, the agency said. Japan and the Soviet Union will continue talks through diplomatic channels, the agency said. [Text] [OW090417 Tokyo KYODO in English 0233 GMT 9 Oct 79 OW]

SOVIET SKIPPER ARRESTED--Sapporo, 13 Oct (KYODO)--The Maritime Safety Agency arrested the skipper of an unidentified Soviet fishing boat operating in Japan's exclusive fishing zone off Kushiro Saturday for failing to record part of its catch in the log. The agency told the Soviet to pay yen 500,000 (dollar 2,000) in security, according to a report from a patrol boat to the MSA local office in Otaru near here. This brought to three the number of Soviet fishing boats blamed for alleged fishing violations in Japanese waters this year, an MSA official said. [Text] [OW131229 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 13 Oct 79 OW]

PDRY, CUBAN FISHERY TALKS--Brother Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Political Bureau and minister of fish resources, received in his office last night Comrade Justino Baro, ambassador of the Republic of Cuba in Aden; relations between the two friendly countries in the field of fish resources exploitation were discussed at the meeting, as well as (?ways of developing) them. The ADEN NEWS AGENCY has learned that the deputy minister of the fish industry of the Republic of Cuba will visit Democratic Yemen [words indistinct]. [Text] [LD190652 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Oct 79 LD]

'NOVOYE VREMYA' ON LOS CONFERENCE--Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 42, on 12 October 1979 publishes on pages 20-21 a 2,000-word article by I. Gorin under the headline "Decisive Stage Ahead" summing up the results

of the Eighth Session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea. The article notes that the "rapprochement of the positions of the main groups of states" with regard to the sea bed gives grounds for believing the conference's work has entered its concluding stage and records Soviet opposition to the suggestion that "a group of several major Western states" should have the power to veto decisions approved by the majority of members of the council of an international organ on the sea bed. [Editorial Report WA]

CSO: 5200

JAPAN, ROK PLAN TO DEVELOP EAST CHINA SEA SHELF

Melbourne THE AGE in English 26 Sep 79 p 29

[Text]

TOKYO, Sept. 25. — Japan and South Korea will soon stage an ambitious joint project to tap the East China Sea's continental shelf for oil, despite protests from North Korea and China.

The indications are that the area to be developed — 82,000 square km (31,500 square miles) or four-fifths the size of South Korea — contains abundant crude oil deposits. But nobody is sure.

In June last year, the government of Japan and South Korea ratified a 50-year agreement to develop a zone in the continental shelf located west of the southern Japanese island of Kyushu and the Korean Peninsula, and east of China.

Protests from Pyongyang and Peking, that their respective sovereignties had been infringed, upset the

Japanese who in June, 1978 were working up to signing a peace and friendship treaty with Peking.

The treaty was later signed. Since then neither Japan nor China has suggested joint oil projects.

All this happened after the semi-official Japan National Oil Corporation refused to either invest in or give loans for the South Korea-Japan continental shelf development. The corporation said it could not fund any projects in areas of international dispute.

Nevertheless, the project is going ahead with the Japanese firms raising the necessary cash.

Nippon Oil Development Company and Teikoku Sekyu Co. Ltd., the two Japanese companies to win concessions for the projects, have not announced any estimates.

CSO: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN TALKS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF REPORTED

Meeting in Seoul

OW081221 Tokyo KYODO in English 0658 GMT 8 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 8 KYODO--Japan and South Korea will hold their joint committee meeting on the continental shelf next Monday and Tuesday in Seoul, the Foreign Ministry announced Monday. Japan will be represented by Masuke Miyake, deputy director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, and Karuo Kamiya, director general of the Petroleum Department of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency.

South Korean delegates to the conference will be Chang Myong-kwan, councillor of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, and Yu Ho-min, director general of the Natural Resources Development Bureau of the Power and Natural Resources Ministry.

They will discuss technical and other matters related to joint ventures and implementation of the joint development project. The first meeting of the committee was held last November.

Agreement on Shelf Development

SK170150 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0138 GMT 17 Oct 79 SK

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 17 (HAPTONG)--Korea and Japan concluded a two-day meeting here Tuesday on their joint development of the continental shelf adjacent to them after reaching a general agreement on all legal and technical matters involved.

The agreement paved the way for both sides to launch a seismic survey in the seventh mining block around Oct. 25 and test drillings next spring. The second meeting of the Korea-Japan Joint Continental Shelf Committee confirmed that there would be no obstacle in going ahead with the prospecting in the seventh mining block as the issue of compensating Japanese fishermen to be affected by the development project has been settled.

Korean delegate to the meeting, Chang Myong-kwan, councillor of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Bureau, said a seismic survey should start in the seventh mining block on Oct. 25. Repairs for the geophysical survey vessel chartered by Korea, the Korean concessionaire for the seventh block, have been finished, Chang said.

The Seoul meeting decided not to subject to their respective export-import regulations the movement into and out of their countries of equipment and materials needed for prospecting. The joint committee meeting will be held in Tokyo in the second half of 1980.

AUSTRALIAN FIRM PLANS OIL EXPLORATION OFF PRC COAST

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 11 Sep 79 p 15

[Text]

The managing director of Ampol Exploration Ltd, Mr A. E. Harris, announced yesterday that the company will carry out a seismic evaluation of two areas offshore from China, along with a number of other oil companies.

The survey will be carried out in the northern section of the Yellow Sea, which separates China from Korea and also in four areas within the Pearl River mouth basin of the South China Sea.

An Ampol spokesman said yesterday that the seismic survey was expected to take about a year but he could not say how much the work would cost.

He said the general manager, energy resources of Ampol, Mr Graham Mollan, was in China negotiating with Chinese Government officials in connection with the seismic work.

The spokesman said the area to be evaluated were "virgin territory" as far as seismic work was concerned.

"The Chinese may have been looking at it, but they don't have access to the equipment being used in the West for this type of seismic work."

It would be a year before target areas were identified for drilling purposes.

The survey in the Yellow Sea will be carried out by Ampol Exploration and other companies, with the Societe Nationale Elf Aquitaine of France as operator.

Ampol will participate in four areas of the Pearl River mouth basin with Esso, Mobil, Phillips and Chevron-Texaco as operators.

"Following the completion of the seismic survey work an evaluation will be made by the participants and the China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Corporation," Mr Harris said.

The go-ahead for the survey work follows negotiations between Ampol and the Chinese Government going back over a number of years.

During those negotiations Ampol registered its interest in exploring for oil in China and importing Chinese crude oil for refining.

As part of its push into China, Ampol last December appointed Australia's first ambassador to China, Dr Stephen Fitzgerald, as a consultant on matters relating to oil and minerals.

CSO: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

S. KOREA-JAPAN SEISMIC SURVEY TO BEGIN 30 OCTOBER

SK300054 Seoul HAPTONG in English 0050 GMT 30 Oct 79 SK

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 30 (HAPTONG)--A seismic survey will begin today in the seventh mining block of the Korea-Japan continental shelf which the two countries are to jointly develop in search of oil and other resources.

The geo-scientific survey ship Prospekte of Fraklassemos of West Germany left for the seventh mining block Monday from Fukuoka, Japan, after completing repairs for her new project that would take more than 40 days.

The Prospekt, contracted by Korea's concessionaire KOAM, will conduct the seismic examination in the 40,000 square kilometer-wide zone, according to the Energy and Resources Ministry today. She will also work at the adjoining fifth mining block a few days for similar purposes.

On the basis of the data obtained by the vessel, points will be selected that would require test drilling, which could be expected as early as the end of March next year.

CSO: 5200

JAPANESE FISHING BOATS TOLD TO AVOID TAIWAN WATERS

OW091205 Tokyo KYODO in English 1134 GMT 9 Oct 79 OW

[Text] Tokyo, Oct 9 KYODO--With reported implementation of a 200-nautical-mile fishing zone by Taiwan Tuesday, the Fishery Agency notified Japanese fishing boats to keep away from the area. But agency officials said the reported Taiwanese enforcement of the fishing zone might be designed to counter similar measures taken by the Philippines recently. They noted that it might be possible for Japan to be excluded from the restriction. They said they were trying to obtain detailed information about the matter from Taiwan as quickly as possible.

Japan annually fishes about 30,000 tons of horse mackerel, mackerel, bonito and tuna in the Taiwanese seas, the officials said, adding, however, there were few Japanese boats currently operating near Taiwan. Japan will have to set up its own 200-mile zone in the East China Sea if it is restricted by Taiwan, the officials added.

CSO: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

VIETNAMESE FREE 70 THAI FISHERMEN, 1 OF 3 BOATS

BK020055 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 2 Nov 79 p 3 BK

[Excerpt] One of three Thai trawlers seized by Vietnamese gunboats on Tuesday has been released and returned to Tha Chalep of Chanthaburi Province yesterday morning with 70 crewmen from the three boats, Mr Thawat Chanprasoet, communications officer attached to the Fisheries Radio Communications Centre at Samut Sakhon said. He said two of the men aboard the No Den Marichai 5 had been seriously wounded by Vietnamese gunfire, and were immediately taken to the provincial hospital in Chanthaburi.

First reports of a clash between Thai trawlers and Vietnamese gunboats reached the Communications Centre Wednesday afternoon. A fleet of about 30 Thai vessels was fishing about 24 kilometres from Thon Island, which lies between Kampuchea and Vietnam, when a Vietnamese gunboat appeared, Mr Thawat said. The patrol ship reportedly opened fire on the Thai boats, which broke up and fled towards Thai waters. The gunboat was then joined by two other patrol ships and chased four Thai vessels for about an hour, finally catching three of them. The incident was reported by the fourth boat, which managed to escape, Mr Thawat said.

The trawlers were taken back to Thon Island, and the crew of all three boats eventually put aboard the Dermanichai 5, which was released.

CSO: 5200

'SRV GUNBOATS' SEIZE THREE THAI TRAWLERS

BK010839 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 1 Nov 79 p 1 BK

[Text] Vietnamese gunboats attacked a fleet of Thai fishing trawlers near Ko Kut off the coast of Trat Province on Tuesday [30 October] and captured three Thai vessels with about 70 crewmen, Mr Thawet Chaisrassot, communications officer attached to the fisheries radio communications centre at Samut Sakhon, said this morning.

Thawet said the centre received word of the Vietnamese attack from an escaping vessel, the S. Supsak, yesterday at 1530 when it was fishing near Koh Thom, a small Cambodian island located between Kampuchea and Vietnam.

According to him, the three Thai fishing trawlers captured by three Vietnamese boats were Suratchai Nawi 2, Niwat Nawi 4 and Mo Denmanichai 5.

He said one Vietnamese vessel, believed to be a patrol warship, opened fire at a fleet of about 30 Thai vessels with 40 mm calibre guns and later joined with two other gunboats in chasing the Thai vessels.

In a 1-hour chase, he said, the three boats were captured with all their crew members.

However, he added, the Thai fleet was still fishing near the scene this morning because "they do not observe the 200-mile zone declared solely by the Vietnamese."

He added the Thai fishing vessels were about 14 or 15 miles from the Vietnamese coast when they were attacked.

CSO: 5200

INTER-ASIAN AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA ON CONTINENTAL SHELVES--Jakarta, 12 Oct (ANTARA)--Australia and Indonesia are at present holding negotiations on continental shelves south of East Timor, and Indonesia in this case hopes for close relations between the two countries, a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said Friday [12 October]. Indonesia's attitude toward Australia's announcement on its fishery zone will, therefore, be determined by a number of factors, among them Indonesia's traditional fishery rights. Indonesia and Australia will hold a third round of discussions on continental shelves. The site and date of the meeting, however, has not been decided yet. The October 12 meeting in Canberra as alleged by the press is not true, the spokesman said. [Text] {BK150821 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0718 GMT 15 Oct 79 BK]

AUSTRALIA-TAIWAN FISHING PACT--Taiwanese boats will be allowed to fish within Australia's newly proclaimed 200-mile fishing zone under agreements signed today by state and federal governments and Taiwanese authorities. The agreements will give 12 months access to 120 Taiwanese boats to fish off the north and northwest coasts. For a fee of more than \$800,000, they will be permitted to catch 27,500 tons of fin fish and sharks. The minister for primary industry, Mr Nixon, said allocations had been reduced because of concern over the exploitation of resources. Under the agreements the Kaohsiung Commercial Fishing Boat Guild will insure that the Taiwanese boats observe the conditions. The guild represents a large number of deep water trawlers, gill net and tuna boat companies. [Text] {Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Nov 79 OW}

CSO: S200

AUSTRALIA

NAVY CAPTAIN DISMISSED FOR OFFENSES AGAINST FOREIGN FISHERMEN

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Sep 79 p 17

[Text] Sydney: A court martial yesterday dismissed the former commanding officer of HMAS Adroit from the Royal Australian Navy after finding him guilty on a series of charges.

The charges included conduct unbecoming an officer—which carries a mandatory sentence of dismissal—receiving stolen property and assault.

The week-long trial of Lieut John David Napier (27) brought to an end a series of courts martial involving other members of the Adroit's crew who were charged with offences arising from fisheries protection patrols by the patrol boat in northern waters.

Napier had pleaded not guilty to a total of 36 charges.

Most of the charges related to boardings of a foreign fishing vessel on June 5 and the boarding of a Taiwanese vessel, the Fu Yuan, in waters off Darwin on November 8 last year.

Napier was found guilty of seven charges of conduct unbecoming an officer, one of receiving stolen property (a shift-

ing spanner), one of assault, two of inciting another officer to assault, one of making an unwarranted demand on a sextant from the master of the Fu Yuan and one of damaging property.

The verdict was handed down on Tuesday night after a four-hour deliberation by the court.

Earlier this month Sub-Lieut. Ian Charles Schmidt (23), the former executive officer on the Adroit, was dismissed from the RAN after he was found guilty on nine charges.

In a plea of mitigation of sentence, Mr T. E. F. Hughes, QC, for Napier, told the court that his client had wanted the navy as his only career.

He had joined the RAN in 1970, was married with two young children and would not easily find employment in the community.

CSO: 5200

AUSTRALIA

PRESS REPORTS DETAILS OF EXPANDED FISHING ZONE

Minister's Report to Parliament

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 26 Sep 79 p 4

[Text] Canberra: Australia will proclaim its 200-sea-mile (370km) fishing zone on November 1.

Primary Industry Minister Ian Sinclair told the Federal Parliament yesterday that the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, had approved the proclamation.

Mr Sinclair also announced that Japan would pay an annual access fee of \$1.4 million for tuna fishermen.

Total estimated revenue from licence and other fees payable by foreign fishing operators in 1979-80 was \$3,316,000, compared with \$273,755 last year.

Mr Sinclair said that within the Australian fishing zone, foreign fishermen would be in breach of the Act unless they had the necessary Australian licences.

They would be required to comply with terms and conditions of access determined by Australia.

CATCHES

Australia would determine total allowable catches, the amount of the catch that would be taken by Australians and the allocation of any surplus to foreign countries.

"Foreigners will not be allowed access to fisheries fully exploited by Australians or likely to be so in the near future," he said.

"The Government hopes that ultimately, Australians will harvest the whole of the allowable catch, but this may take some time because of economic and productivity factors".

Mr Sinclair said that the Government had approved several joint fishing ventures involving interests from Japan, South Korea, the United States and Poland, but preference would be given to purely Australian operations in the zone.

The zone would include all islands that were part of a State, including Macquarie Island, Lord Howe Island and all islands that were part of the Northern Territory.

Negotiations on permanent maritime boundaries with Indonesia had started in February, and discussions had been held with the Solomon Islands.

NEGOTIATIONS

It would be necessary to hold similar negotiations with New Zealand and France.

The proclamation would cover waters up to 200 sea miles (370km) off the Australian Antarctic Territory, but they would be excepted from the zone.

The exception would not affect the application

of the Fisheries Act to any Australian fishing off Australia's Antarctic Territory.

Apart from the access fee of \$1.4 million under the subsidiary agreement, Japan had provided certain assurances on access to the Japanese market for Australian fish and fish products.

The opposition minerals and energy spokesman, Mr Paul Keating (NSW), said in reply that several issues still remained unclear.

Australia had spent so little on Antarctica that one could wonder what the wisdom was in declaring a fishing zone off its coast.

In the Senate, the Opposition's primary industry spokesman, Senator Peter Walsh, said the fishing licence fees collected from foreign fishermen should be put into a special fund to develop the local industry.

The money could be used to provide credit for local fishermen for building and buying vessels to increase the local fleet.

Further Details Given

Melbourne THE AGE in English 26 Sep 79 p 18

[Text]

From STEPHEN MILLS

Australia will proclaim a 200-nautical-mile fishing zone on November 1.

But the zone will not apply to waters off the Australian Antarctic Territory.

The Minister for Primary Industry, Mr. Sinclair, told Parliament yesterday that negotiations on permanent maritime boundaries were being held with Indonesia and the Solomon Islands, but had not yet begun with New Zealand and France.

The announcement of the fishing zone has caused a 12-month postponement of the planned review of Australia's coastal surveillance needs, originally due to begin in the middle of next year.

The Minister for Transport, Mr. Nixon, said yesterday his department needed practical experience of the surveillance task involved with the new zone.

The Australian Coastal Surveillance Organisation, which will conduct the review, also needed time to get experience with the Australian-built Nomad planes to be used, Mr. Nixon said.

Mr. Sinclair also announced that Japan had agreed to pay an annual access fee of \$1.4 million to fish for tuna.

Foreign fishermen within the new zone will be in breach of the act unless they have licences.

Mr. Sinclair said the proclamation would cover waters up to 200 miles off the Australian Antarctic Territory, but

they would be excepted from the fishing zone.

This was because of negotiations under way with other claimants to Antarctic territory on the signing of a convention on conservation of marine life.

Mr. Sinclair said Australia would determine total allowable catches.

Foreigners will not be allowed access to fisheries fully exploited by Australians or likely to be so in the near future," he said.

Mr. Sinclair said the Government had approved a number of joint fishing ventures involving interests from Japan, South Korea, the US and Poland.

But at all times, the Government would give preference to purely Australian operations.

Mr. Sinclair said talks had been held with Taiwanese commercial interests making it clear that access was dependent on cessation of illegal activities.

The Opposition minerals and energy spokesman, Mr. Keating, said a number of issues remained unclear.

Australia had spent so little on Antarctica that one could wonder what the wisdom was in declaring a 200-mile fishing zone off its coast, he said.

The Minister had also failed to give details of the kinds of terms that would be appropriate for licensing foreign fishing vessels.

Key Objectives Stressed

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 27 Sep 79 p 6

[Editorial: "New Sea Zone"]

[Text] So much has been said in the past few years about Australia's plan to proclaim a 200-nautical-mile (370km) fishing zone that it comes as something of an anti-climax to learn that a declaration day—November 1—has finally been decided. Yet it is one of the most important international moves Australia has made and the issues involved cannot be dismissed lightly.

On November 1, Australia will find itself responsible for administering about as much ocean as the country has land. The new zone will cover about 8

million square kilometres and it will be up to Australia to decide how the vast fishing resources it contains are managed and which countries are going to be allowed to fish there. We will also face the daunting task of keeping a protective eye on our huge new territory.

Australia is not the first country to declare such a zone. Dozens of others have already proclaimed similar areas of ocean ownership, despite the fact that the long-running United Nations law of the sea conference has still not adopted a convention that would recognise a

nation's right to do so. International clashes have followed some of these moves as the world's major fishing nations seek to keep their fleets working in the newly proclaimed zones.

Avoiding such conflict will be one of our major concerns from now on. Though the thrust of Australia's plan is to control the activities of foreign fishing fleets in our waters rather than to prohibit them, there are certain to be outright challenges to our administration. For example, the Taiwanese, who make regular intrusions inside the existing 12-nautical mile (22km) limit, are known to operate in considerable numbers along Australia's northern and western coasts. Their record suggests that they will push their luck to the limit in the new zone.

But those who transgress will be the rogue operators. There is reason to believe that those fleets allowed to operate in Australian waters under licence—a significant new source of revenue—will be anxious to avoid action that might endanger their standing.

Conservation of our fishing resources—establishing their extent and ensuring that foreign fleets are not working them beyond capacity—is the strongest argument in favour of Australia's move. As for the harvesting of those resources, we have three options: To seek to keep all foreign boats out and to fish the area ourselves, to let all comers in under licence, or to enter into joint ventures with other countries, sharing the catch and gradually building up our own industry to the point at which it can take over the operation.

The first would be impossible and morally indefensible (we could not police the area effectively or take anywhere near full advantage of it ourselves) and the second would be short-sighted (a boost for revenue in the short term but a possible threat to resources and to our own industry). Option three is thus our only acceptable course.

It leaves Australia with two key objectives from November 1—to improve our surveillance capacity so that the arrangements we make can be supervised as effectively as possible and to promote our fishing industry so that it can play an ever-increasing role.

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

200-MILE NAUTICAL ZONE--Sydney, 1 Nov KYODO--Australia Thursday officially established its 200-mile nautical zone. The operations of Japanese fishing vessels within the zone, chiefly floating long-line fishing for tuna and marlin, are guaranteed by a fisheries agreement already signed between the two countries. Up to the present time about 300 vessels have applied for fishing licenses under the agreement. A provisional arrangement between the two governments permits operations by vessels whose applications are pending, so there is no problem for Japanese tuna boats in the southern part of the zone, where the season has already begun. The agreement also permits hand-line tuna and marlin boats to operate in the special Coral Sea zone. There is also a demand for single line skipjack fishing within the zone, however as there is still a wide gap between Australian and Japanese positions on the question of how many vessels to admit and how to evaluate the catch, the fishery agency has advised Japanese boats using this method to operate outside the zone. [Sidney KYODO in English No Time Given 1 Nov 79 OW]

FISH SURVEY--The Federal Government is to spend nearly \$6 million to charter a trawler for 5 years to survey fish resources in Australia's new 200-mile fishing economic zone. Australia proclaimed the zone at the beginning of this month and is now obliged to conserve and manage fish stocks, set total allowable catches and decide catches to be taken by foreign fishermen.

[Text] [00080231 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Nov 79 OW]

CSO: 5200

OIL, NATURAL GAS DISCOVERED IN WATERS OFF SAKHALIN

OW300103 Tokyo KYODO in English 0030 GMT 30 Oct 79 OW

[ext] Tokyo, Oct 30, KYODO--Promising oil and natural gas strata have been discovered in waters off the Chayvo District in northeastern Sakhalin and production on a commercial basis from wells drilled in the area may be started as early as in 1985. This was revealed Monday by Sadao Kobayashi, president of Sakhalin Oil Development Cooperation Co. (SOICO) of Tokyo, which is engaged in development of oil resources in the Sakhalin waters jointly with the Soviet Union. The No 1 well in the Chayvo District from where the oil strata were discovered is located some 12 kilometers offshore.

Kobayashi said test drillings, completed October 18, showed that there were seven strata of oil and natural gas deposits at depths of between 2,000 and 2,800 meters. He said the oil strata, 35 meters thick, were promising. Kobayashi also revealed that 1,000,000 cubic meters of natural gas flowed out daily in tests conducted. He said the scope of the natural gas strata is 10 times that of Aga, Niigata Prefecture, from where gas is being produced on a commercial basis at present. Kobayashi said his firm plans to drill four more wells in the Chayvo District preparatory to start of production on a commercial basis. He added two of the four wells will be drilled next year.

CSO: 5200

CONCERN OVER MANILA-PEKING MARITIME ZONE TALKS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 24 Sep 79 p 1

[Text]

TAIPEH, Sept. 23

THE possibility of Manila and Peking entering into negotiations for demarcating the maritime economic zone in areas of overlap has caused deep resentment here. An editorial in the China News yesterday warned the Philippines of the presence of Nationalist Chinese naval forces in the Bashi Channel if Manila went ahead with negotiations with Peking over the overlap of its 200-mile economic zone with that claimed by Taiwan.

"If the Filipinos want to talk to the Chinese communists about the overlap of their 200 mile economic zone with that of the Republic of China (Taiwan), we cannot stop them," the English-language daily said.

"But they had better keep their fishing boats out of our half of the zone, because the effective force in the Bashi Channel is the navy of this country," it added.

The Philippines declared its zone in a martial law decree

signed last April. Taiwan declared its own zone on Sept. 6.

The China News said: "The Philippines had diplomatic relations with Red China. That has nothing to do with the peaceful use of the waters between Luzon and Taiwan."

"This is a matter not of diplomatic nicety and protocol but of reality."

"We are there and ready to share the waters equitably with our Filipino friends. The Chinese communists have no power to keep any agreements they make with the Philippines."

Meanwhile, a visiting Filipino tourist official said here the Philippines tourist industry has asked its government to waive a US\$20,000 income requirement on tourists holding Taiwan passports.

The president of the Philippines Tourism Organisation, Art Panganiban, said he expected the government to approve the request. — Reuter

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

FISHERY IN COASTAL PROVINCES--Hanoi, 29 Oct--Apart from boosting agricultural and industrial production, southern coastal provinces are making greater efforts to develop fishery. Thuan Hai, Kien Giang and Minh Hai have built more than 50 workshops for repairing and building trawlers. A seafoods enterprise with an annual output of 20,000 tons is under construction in the Mekong River Delta Province of Ben Tre, while more refrigerating plants and seafoods factories have been transformed into state run or joint state-private ventures. The central coastal provinces have trained almost 6,000 economic management cadres for fishing cooperatives. Thanks to collectivization, fishing enterprises in southern provinces last month netted the biggest catch in the past nine months. The 70 state run enterprises on the central coast in the past three months netted 15,000 tons of shrimps and fish. Almost 70 percent of the catch has been sold to the state. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0317 GMT 29 Oct 79 JW]

CSO: 5200

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

U.S. CHARGED WITH TAKING TUNA IN COSTA RICAN WATERS

PA160154 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 15 Oct 79 PA

(UPI) - San Jose, Costa Rica - President Jimmy Carter has sent Carazo a telegram asking that our patrol boats not stop ships with foreign flags fishing in Costa Rican waters. It is believed now that the patrol boats are not working now.

Carazo explained that Carazo is letting foreign ships fish in our waters until a bill on the 10-mile issue is studied. The problem is that in the past Costa Rica signed international treaties that state that only 12 miles will be respected.

Meanwhile the United States is taking Costa Rican tuna and shrimp gratis.

CSO: 5200

MEXICO

CAMPECHE SOUND OIL WELLS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST PRODUCERS

PA011303 Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 31 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 31 Oct (AFP)--Mexico has the world's most productive oil wells as extraction begins at Akal 3 and Akal 74-A in Campeche Sound, the world's largest marine deposit, it was reported here today.

Akal 3 produces 60,000 barrels a day and Akal 74-A produces 50,000 barrels a day. These volumes are greater than those produced by what were considered the world's most productive wells.

Campeche Sound, located in the Gulf of Campeche in the Caribbean, is said to be the third largest oilfield according to proven reserves.

It was also reported that Petroleos Mexicanos expects to reach a production level of 7 million barrels a day by the end of the year.

Currently, 1.725 million barrels a day of oil are extracted.

CSO: 5200

ADOPTION OF 200-MILE ZONE STRONGLY ADVOCATED

Libreville L'UNION in French 11,12,13 Sep 79

[Article by Mualabu Mussamba: "Gabon and the Law of the Sea"]

[11 Sep 79, p 4]

[Excerpts] In June 1974, the third United Nations conference on the law of the sea began in Caracas (Venezuela). For nearly three months, 5,000 representatives from 140 countries, including Gabon, were to try, through an international treaty, to find a solution to the problem of the legal status of the oceans and the resources within them.

New York, 1978. Gabon participates in the second part of the seventh session of the third conference on the law of the sea, which concludes on 15 September with no substantial progress achieved.

Geneva, 1979. The debate is resumed on 19 March. It is expected that it will lead to a world-wide convention on the law of the sea. In the absence of this agreement, the United States would apply unilateral legislation on exploitation of mineral resources in the ocean deeps.

Major Turning Point for Gabon

The development of resources in the sea, which takes up 70 percent of the earth's surface, is not of concern to just a few highly developed countries. In future, any countries handicapped by technological and economic underdevelopment will no longer agree to unshared dominion by a few maritime powers, in the name of freedom or reciprocity.

Freedom of navigation and ocean development must in principle be profitable first of all to the natives of the country.

Research undertaken during the past few decades, often in great secrecy, has made it possible to establish that so far as Gabon is concerned there exist fields (seams or strata lying close to the coasts, rich enough for profitable

extraction) as well as sulphur.

The same report also indicates that over 30 percent of Gabon's off-shore resources lie within its exclusive economic zone. The "Scottish Council," author of these very reliable estimates, also foresees, as of 1980, nine million tons of oil a year for Gabon.

Discovering it depends mainly on the cost of extracting it, hence on the techniques used. In addition, Gabon is situated in a high concentration area so far as the mining of polymetallic nodules is concerned.

12 Sep 79, p 5

Excerpts 7 The very rapid increase in world fishery production during the last two decades may have given the illusion that food resources in the oceans were almost unlimited.

With respect to Gabon, it is reported that foreign vessels are currently engaged in pillaging our fishery resources, in the absence of legal regulation. These vessels, it is reported by a reliable source, have at their disposal fish detection and catch equipment and are also calmly exploiting additional Gabonese fishing grounds. They pay no fees to the state.

It is specified that by groups of species, the catch of these industrial vessels is as published 7 composed in 1973 of 71 percent ocean fish, 14 percent freshwater fish, 8 percent crustaceans and molluscs, 5 percent diadromous fish, and 2 percent aquatic plants.

Vanishing Species

To crown all, the countries whose vessels are fishing in Gabon's exclusive economic zone are even selling these products back to our country at prices to suit themselves. At that rate, therefore, Gabon is in danger of seeing the disappearance of certain species, thus bringing about a veritable economic crisis.

For lack of a research policy and advanced technology, and also as a result of not arming our fishing fleets like those of our pillagers, the country is in danger of seeing its catch percentages decline.

Extension of Exclusive Zone

Gabon must think about extending its exclusive economic zone to 200 miles and setting up a legal organization. That would provide a solution to all the malnutrition problems. It would enable the country to control 95 percent of the fish-bearing waters.

It must be specified that Gabon's exclusive economic zone must extend from the coast to a limit of 200 nautical miles. Within this economic zone, the

government would have sovereign rights to the biological and mineral resources of the sea, the land, and the marine substratum. Freedom of navigation through the zone would however be maintained, and the creation of this economic zone would result in putting 36 percent of the ocean surfaces under national control.

It should be recalled that several countries have already decided to extend their exclusive fishing zones to 200 miles. It is desirable for us all to think seriously about the problem before inextricable legal battles, whose victims, in the end, would be countries that do not have the technical or economic means to exploit the resources of the ocean bottoms, result in the confiscation by the super-powers of what the international community has nevertheless decided to consider the common patrimony of the human race.

[¹ Sep 79, p L7]

Excerpts beyond the economic zone, then, would extend the international zone, whose resources would constitute the common patrimony of mankind. Regulation of the exploitation of these resources would be entrusted to an international authority under the egis of the United Nations.

The legal status of the international zone remains uncertain, and the conference will have to decide if management of the zone's resources will be entirely entrusted to an international organization or simply subjected to international control.

Dangers of Coastal Pollution

The constant increase in the average tonnage of vessels, especially of oil tankers, has given rise to new hazards, not only for maritime traffic in certain much-traveled areas, but also, and particularly, for our marine resources threatened by pollution phenomena.

To have their sovereignty over maritime zones respected, the coastal states will doubtless have to provide themselves with surveillance and protection vessels, and also have at their disposal financial resources and equipment to supervise the wealth of their seas (fish and off-shore oil). It will also be necessary to implement broad measures to discourage pirate operations.

It must be said that Richelieu's comment is still appropriate: "The sea, of all heritages, is the one in which sovereigns claim the most shares, and yet it is the one in which the rights of each are least clearly defined."

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CSO: 5200

EXTENSION OF FISHING ZONE TO BE PROCLAIMED

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 5 Nov 79 p 1

[Article by Rianne Fourie]

[Text] The proposed 200-mile fishing zone off the SWA coast will be proclaimed this week, it was reliably learnt today.

The decision to do this follows a Bill passed by the National Assembly earlier this year.

It is estimated that the extension of the SWA fishing zone to 200 miles can earn the Territory R17m extra a year. This will come from selling fishing rights to other nations operating inside the zone.

The decision to extend the fishing zone comes ahead of the conference of the International Commission for South East Atlantic Fisheries to be held on November 26 in Spain.

It was expected that the proposal to extend the fishing zone would have been discussed at the conference.

Recently a US delegate to the UN attacked the Soviet Union before the UN Decolonisation Committee in New York for plundering the fishing resources off the SWA coast.

The delegate, Mr John Graham, based his arguments on the official UN figures for 1977.

He told the committee that the Soviet Union had taken 750,000 tons of hake and mackerel from waters mostly within 350 km off the SWA coast. He valued the catch at R174m.

Mr Graham indicated that the aforementioned catch was taken in five years to 1977 and this works out to roughly 150,000 tons a year at an annual value of about R35m.

SWA's share of the deepsea fishing at present is about 6 percent of the overall catch or R15m a year. Earnings from the pelagic industry which generally fishes close to the shore should be about R25m this year, while canning revenues are unlikely to exceed R7m or R8m.

CSO: 5200

FISHING ZONE EXTENSION RECEIVED FAVORABLY

Delegation to Fisheries Conference

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 6 Nov 79 p 4

[Text]

THE CRAYFISH season for non-commercial catches opened on Thursday.

This enables holidaymakers on the SWA coast to start catching crayfish for the pot earlier than in the past when the season opened only in January.

The season will close at the end of June.

Every person is restricted to five crayfish a day. The headbreast length of the crayfish may not be smaller than 6.5 cm.

The commercial season opened on Monday, last week, for the area south of Lüderitz. It will close again at the end of December when the season for the area north of Lüderitz will open until the end of June.

The snoek season also opened yesterday and will remain open until the end of June.

A delegation of five will represent SWA in the SA delegation at the conference of the International Commission for South East Atlantic

Fisheries to be held in Spain on November 26.

The delegation will be led by the SWA Director of Economic Affairs, Mr Pieter Kruger, who led last year's SA delegation to the conference. If the SA ambassador in Spain does not attend this year's conference, Mr Kruger will probably take the lead again.

The other members of the SWA delegation are Mr Louis Botha of Sea Fisheries, Mr John Besseling, Mr A P du Preez and Mr Charl du Plessis.

Six more members will represent SA.

Because SWA is not yet independent it can not have full representation at ICSEAF.

Asked whether the extension of SWA's fishing zone to 200 miles will be discussed, Mr Kruger said at this stage it was still uncertain because of SWA's constitutional position.

"But there is a good relationship between the member countries of the ICSEAF. We hope to use these to obtain the cooperation of the member countries," Mr Kruger said.

Asked about certain problems which seem to be in the way of SWA's fishing zone being extended to 200 miles, Mr Kruger declined to comment.

It is believed that the extension of the fishing waters can bring in a revenue of up to R17m a year for SWA.

"But extending the zone will be of no value if there is no proper control," Mr Kruger said.

At this stage the SA division of Sea Fisheries is still helping to control the SWA zone, but once it has been extended SWA will have to get its own patrol service, Mr Kruger said.

Hopes for Fishing Industry

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 6 Nov 79 p 3

[Article by Rianne Fourie]

[Text]

THE EXTENSION of SWA's fishing zone to 200 miles "means a new era in the fishing industry", factory manager, Mr John Besseling said yesterday on the announcement that it would be proclaimed by the Administrator General tomorrow.

The news was generally accepted with enthusiasm and joy in the fishing community of Walvis Bay "because we have been pleading for it for so many years".

The Administrator General, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, yesterday announced that acting on the advice of the National Assembly, a 200 nautical mile exclusive zone would be proclaimed off the coast of SWA on Wednesday.

The zone will become effective on a date to be announced soon. At the same time a territorial zone of 12 miles will come into force.

This action is primarily aimed at protecting the heavily exploited fish resources off the coast.

The AG, however, stressed that the historical presence of foreign nations fishing in the area will be recognised and accommodated according to internationally accepted criteria.

He also said that the fish stocks will continue to be managed according to accepted scientific principles and with due regard to the advice of existing international fisheries commissions concerned with the area.

Mr Pieter Kruger, the director of Economic Affairs, under which the fishing industry falls, said yesterday the main implication of the extension would be that the fish resources would be better protected.

"One hopes that the extension would have such a positive effect on the resources as it had in SA. Two years after the fishing zone had been extended to 200 miles the catch per unit of effort about doubled.

"That is our primary objective. With the high cost of fuel it is important to get a higher return of catches," Mr Kruger said.

On the bonus side is also the possible revenue from selling fishing licences and royalties from countries fishing in the zone. At a rough estimate it could be R12m in the first year, Mr Kruger said.

Referring to countries with historic fishing rights, Mr Kruger said these will remain unchanged but will be subject to conditions laid down by SWA.

The biggest and first problem Mr Kruger sees with the implementation of the zone is the patrolling of it.

"It is a tremendous area. It is estimated that we will need at least one or two vessels capable of a fairly long range and made for deepsea patrolling.

"Initially we will have to depend on SA to a certain extent until we can deploy our own patrol service," Mr Kruger said. This is not foreseen for the immediate future.

Concerning possible problems with other nations Mr Kruger said: "We are not seeking a confrontation. We want cooperation.

"The difficulty of enforcing a zone like this would depend on the cooperation from other nations."

Mr Kruger said he presumed the matter would be discussed at the ICSEAF conference in Spain at the end of this month.

The manager of one of the fishing companies, Mr R S Fuller, commented yesterday: "We all welcome it. We have been pleading for it for many years."

For the fishing industry it could only mean a revival because SA had shown only two years after the extension of its fishing zone, catches almost doubled, Mr Fuller said.

Mr Frans Conradie, chairman of the Fishing Factories Executive, also welcomed the step. "We have been shouting for it for a long time."

Mr John Besseling Tah
absolutely welcomed the an-
nouncement. It is the best
news in a long time.

"It would bring about better
control over the pelagic
resources as well as the white
fish, like stock fish and
mackerel because we will have
control as to the quantity and
species."

To make the fishing limit ef-
fective however, Mr Besseling
stressed it is essential to have
effective application."

Businessman Mr J. F. van der
Werk, who just returned to
Walvis Bay after an absence
of about eight months also
welcomed the news.

"It is one of the best things
that could have happened. We
have asked and fought for it
for years."

Another person, closely as-
sociated with the fishing in-
dustry for many years howev-
er, was less optimistic.
He said: "It could bring a lot
of revenue, but for the local
fishermen it can't change
much."

Local fisherman said
boats for deeper fishing are
then they are used to catch
mainly sardines and anchovies
which are closer to the coast.

Will Develop Walvis Bay

Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 6 Nov 79 p 1

[CONT]

THE EXTENSION of SWA's fishing
waters to 200 miles, to be proclaimed tomor-
row, could bring the desperately-needed boost
to Walvis Bay's faltering economy.

Now the town fathers and the fishing community are op-
timistic that Walvis Bay will experience a steady recovery
over the next two years.

"This is the best thing that
could have happened," enthused town clerk, Mr Jan
Wilken. "We have been urging
the Government to extend the
fishing zone since 1961. I
wrote the first letter and have
never stopped writing since."

Referring to the charges
that occurred on the SA West
Coast after SA proclaimed a
200 mile zone, Mr Wilken aid
marked changes will only be
seen after 18 months to two
years. "Then one will see the
return of the population as the
pilchard industry recovers."

But already many fishing
factories are looking to ex-
panding their operations.
"Some of the companies
already have representatives
overseas, on the look-out for
bigger boats for deepsea
fishing," Mr Wilken said.

The Director of Economic
Affairs, Mr Pieter Kruger, said
the extended fishing zone
could result in more vessels
using the ports of Walvis
Bay or Luderitz for provisions
and inspections. This could
have a marked effect on both
towns with more money in
circulation again.

Factory manager, Mr John
Besseling said the extension
could have a "tremendous" ef-
fect on Walvis Bay. It could
promote the white fish in-
dustry but mostly it could give
a rise to increased land-based
operations.

"It will give the people a lot
more confidence and put a lot
more capital into circulation.

The desperate situation of
the town was reflected in a

lead editorial in the Walvis
Bay-based Namib Times on
Friday. Under the heading
Walvis Bay faces a Critical
Time, certain aspects of the
present situation were outlined
to the new Administrator of
the Cape Province, Mr Gene
Louw.

Mr Louw and other officials
visited Walvis Bay at the
weekend. It was his first visit
to the town since he became
Administrator on September 1.

Mr Louw was informed
that:

- There was fear of large-scale unemployment in the present total decline in the economy. The recess was due to various factors, but es-
pecially the position of the
fishing industry, the article
states.

- SWA could not be asked to help to create job opportunities at Walvis Bay and Walvis itself can do nothing. Therefore the authorities should revive the economy again.
- The unemployment situation was already so bad that for the third successive year the municipality had to shelve steps to increase house rents in the Black town Kuselmond because the inhabitants had no work opportunities to be able to pay their rents.
- Despite the fact that several Coloured families already live in the White town there were still 385 empty housing units. And there were rumours of 90 more families leaving the town at the end of the year.
- A development plan to stimulate the economy of the town was put before the SA Government. It was the only way of preventing further escalation of unemployment.
- Though the SA Government had promised certain short term measures to combat the recess, nothing has yet been done.
- It had already been established that 39 business concern, including industries, had closed down.

CSO: 5200

BRIEFS

REAPPEARANCE OF PACIFIC SARDINES--This autumn large schools of far eastern sardines known as Ivasi herring have appeared in the water off Vladivostok port. This has not occurred for some 40 years, according to specialists. Before the 1930's this food fish was widely distributed along the coast of Primorye. Many theories have been put forward to explain their disappearance. Scientists of Tinro have now linked the movement of the Pacific sardines with atmospheric circulation affecting the temperature of ocean waters. Recent increases in water temperature have contributed to increased plankton growth attracting the sardines. Movements of the Ivasi have been observed along the coast to the Tatar Strait and scientists have made reassuring forecasts about the "biological explosion" of this fish. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0930 GMT 29 Oct 79 OW]

CSO: 5200

GREECE

BRIEFS

NEW OILFIELD UNDER ORIGINAL AEGEAN FIELD--The Public Oil Corporation issued a statement today confirming that following the first productive drilling in Prinos of Thasos, it has been ascertained that another significant oil field lies under the well-known original field. According to the results of the first test, this new oil field will produce 4,000-5,000 barrels of oil daily. [Text] [AT101610 Athens Domestic Service in Greek 1230 GMT 10 Oct 79 AT]

CSO: 5200

SWEDEN

SWEDEN PULLS BACK TERRITORIAL LIMIT TO 9 MILES IN SOUTH

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 11 Oct 79 p 8

[Report by Lars Hellberg, AFTENPOSTEN correspondent]

[Text] Stockholm, 10 Oct--For fear of international complications, the Swedish foreign affairs leadership is preparing to reduce the territorial limit of 12 nautical miles already put into effect. The expansion of Swedish territorial waters from 4 to 12 nautical miles was carried out only 1 July of this year.

Besides the international complications in relation to both eastern and western countries, this will avoid a conflict between Swedish interests, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, and the top military leadership.

According to plans, as of the first of the year Sweden would pull back the boundary to 9 nautical miles. That can solve a number of problems both with regard to the two German states and to Denmark, which for its part, in view of the controversial international question, has refrained so far from undertaking an expansion.

According to SVENSKA DAGBLADET, well-informed sources are of the opinion that the repeated West German violations of the expanded Swedish territory in the area in question are meant as reminders that the Swedes have gone too far. The violations have taken place in the waters between the Danish outpost of Bornholm and the Swedish mainland.

The Danes for their part are considering plans to restrict any expansion to the area toward the North Sea, and thus not create any complications in the sounds in the Baltic. If Denmark also extended the sea boundary on the Baltic side, that in combination with an East German expansion would simply block the entry into the Kiel Canal. One of the results might be that West Germany, which the eastern countries do not recognize as a coastal state, would be forced into a position in which it would be necessary to announce passages to the East German authorities in advance.



The Swedish foreign affairs leadership is said to intend to pull back the sea boundary in the shaded areas.

lead to serious conflicts if Denmark follows Sweden's example. With the result that the Øresund area is blocked.

On the Swedish side it is hoped that a withdrawal from earlier positions will clear away any dangers of conflicts and make it easier to maintain respect for and enforcement of restrictions of access within a more restricted area.

While the Swedes have opened the Baltic as an open sea area, the Soviet Union considers that the Baltic is closed.

At the time when the boundary expansion went into effect, Sweden introduced what are called passage zones in the Øresund and in the area toward Bornholm. The free zones mean that foreign naval vessels and military planes can pass within the area bounded by the outermost 3 nautical miles of the expanded Swedish territorial waters. In other words, the regulation is not enforced.

The pull-back plans mean that from the first of the year on, the territorial limit will be pulled back to the inner limit of these zones, i.e. to 9 nautical miles. But the proposal is encountering domestic criticism, particularly since the earlier three-party government which did the planning considered that it had avoided all complications without blocking the expansion, which was then put into effect by the present Liberal Party government which goes out Friday.

With regard to the United States, too, which in the law-of-the-sea negotiations has maintained a "transit passage right" in sounds that are blocked by new expanded sea boundaries, the Swedish expansion is a problem.

If pushed to an extreme, the American concept of passage rights in war as well as in peace can lead to serious conflicts if Denmark follows Sweden's example. With the result that the Øresund area is blocked.

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SWEDEN

NEW TERRITORIAL LIMITS MAY COST SWEDEN RIGHT TO OIL RESOURCES

Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 14 Oct 79 p 4

[Text] Has Sweden thrown away its strongest negotiating card in the fight for a very promising oil region by pledging to move back its ocean boundary in southern Kattegatt? It looks like it.

The area of interest is small in size and lies about 20 nautical miles west of Kullen's Light.

According to seismic measurements in the region this area, around 35 square kilometers in size, could be quite interesting from the point of view of oil exploration, perhaps one of the most interesting areas in the vicinity of Sweden.

Which country, Denmark or Sweden, has the right to prospect for oil in this area does not depend primarily on where the territorial waters boundary is located but on where the so-called midline between Denmark and Sweden is drawn. The midline affects larger bodies of water and also sets the continental shelf boundaries for the various countries, including the rights to any oil found there.

But in the context of negotiations the problem of the extent of territorial waters and the drawing of the midline cannot be separated from each other, we were told by well-informed sources after SVENSKA DAGBLADET revealed that Sweden was planning to pull back its ocean boundaries north and south of the Sound and in the narrows between Skane and Bornholm.

Danish Expansion

On 19 April 1978 Denmark expanded its ocean territory substantially by unilaterally drawing a so-called base line from Gilleleje in northern Sjaelland west-northwesterly to the little island of Hesselø. The area inside the base line is counted as so-called interior waters and it is customary to draw the midline between two states from the base line.

In concrete terms this means that almost all the promising oil prospecting territory in Kattegatt will end up in the Danish economic zone.

Bird Sanctuary

From the point of view of international law the Danish plotting of a new base line was extremely dubious. Hesselø is really a small group of sandy islets used as bird sanctuaries and could hardly serve as the basis for an independent economic life as required under international law if the island is to be used as the turning point in drawing a base line.

Marine experts told SVENSKA DAGBLADET that the geometry of the Danish base line in itself reveals that the intention was to include the interesting oil prospecting area in the Danish economic zone.

Swedish Protest

Sweden protested Denmark's unilateral action in a diplomatic note in August 1978.

The government registered a general reservation against Denmark's unilateral action. Above all it would not accept that the new base line led to a change in status for areas previously included in the Swedish continental shelf (economic zone).

Therefore the government proposed that the matter be taken up in future negotiations. These have been conducted without changing matters much.

Negotiating Card Gone

SVENSKA DAGBLADET's sources say that the reduction of the Swedish ocean boundary from 12 to 9 nautical miles planned for next year occurred after strong pressure was brought to bear by Denmark. Without trying to arrive at a solution of the midline problem that is satisfactory to Sweden we have lost our strongest negotiating card in the gamble for potential oil resources.

Swedish Oil Prospecting, Inc. (OPAB) has conducted extensive seismic measurements in southern Kattegatt. Test drilling plans have not yet been carried out, partly due to lack of money but partly due to the unclear boundary line question.

According to an internal Chancellery memo from 1978 it is thought both for defense reasons and in view of possible oil resources that we should work for a favorable boundary line in southern Kattegatt even if this is achieved at the cost of making concessions further north.



The shaded area in the north is one of the most promising from the point of view of finding oil. The way Denmark has drawn its base line causes large parts of the region to fall inside Denmark's economic zone. Without Denmark's disputed drawing of the base line most of the area would fall on the Swedish side (dotted line).

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